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Original Poetry.

A BUTTERFLY ON THE WATER.

WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, BY DAVID BATES.

Gently, that's wondered the array
From lily sweets and perennial flowers
Whose joyous them doth'st flit and play
Among the fields o'erwrote with flowers.

And, tempting to thy pretty wing,
Meet left the safe and smiling land.
To seek new pleasures—giddy thing—
Upon a far and unknown strand.

Were there not sweets enough to try,
On fleeting moral and blooming vine?
Perchance a viral sheet more fair
With fairer pleasure still than thine!

Or, spurning thy presented lot,
Life was a burden on such terms,
And, being born to fly and shine,
Then would'st not crawl on vulgar worms.

And now thy gay but weary pinions,
Can neither sustain thy venturous flight;
There canst not reach the distant blossom
That did thy curious eye invite.

Still newer falls thy faltering speed,
And does not far from friendly shore;
The fish has marked thee for his prey
No angle—and thy gay life is o'er!

And then, I thought, it is an life
In human and gay will tension on
Is become more, or, all hope is gone.

Regret and grief all are vain.
They cannot, if they would, restore
That simple to innocence again,
The grave the second scene efface.

Original Novelet.

MIRIAM, THE AVENGER;

OR,

THE FATAL VOW.

WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, BY MRS. EMMA D. E. N. SOUTHWORTH, AUTHOR OF "THE HIDDEN HAND," "VIVIENNE AND MADELAINE," "SHANNONDALE," "THE CURSE OF CLIFTON," "THE DISCARDED DAUGHTER," ETC., ETC., ETC.

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CHAPTER III.

THE ATTACK.

All that the timid world shrink from of extremes,
All that the body portentous of bad,
All that we read, or hear, or think of monstrous,
All that the dreary world do of most sad.
All is to-day, and all is to-morrow,
As that—mere mortals with their power above
Who have—to heretofore and a-more-to-borrow.
Byron.

Violent knocking and shaking of the entire door and the sound of voices—

"Open! open! open! in the name of God's sake, let us in!"

"There are fugitives—not foes—listen—they plead—they do not threaten—go and unbar the door, Gilroy," said Edith.

Relieved by the cautiously the old man obeyed.

Light as another candle, Jenny—that is dying in its socket—it will be out in a minute."

Trembling all over, Jenny cowered to do as she was bid, but only succeeded in patting out the expiring light. The sound of the unbarring of the door had ceased, and only the last mean, heart of self-control. Edith struck a light, while the sound of hoarse-ing and voices in the hall, and the sound of footsteps and voices in the room, told that the fugitives had been admitted.

"It's Nell and Liddy and Sot from Hay Hill! Oh, Miss Edy! Thorg and his men are up due Bayside everything! Oh, Miss Edy! ain't we in a scape! what is to be done? we may be all killed, what a 'scape! what is to be done?" Oh, Miss Edy!

"What! do I hear you right? Hay Hill attacked! Thorg Thorg—outlaws—Edith—the light that now burning, and she looked coldly at the intruders. "Thorg! Thorg of Hay Hill! Impossible—"

"Yes, Miss Edith, yes; Thorg cutting and slashing and slashing and burning, in his heart's fury!"

"Thorg at Hay Hill! Good God! Gilroy! Jenny! and the family! and Fannie! Merciful God! Fannie!"

Then these ugitives began at once in a wild hurried manner to tell their story.

Hill Nell, with a wierd, commanding gesture, cried the speech of the others, and came forward herself to tell the tale.

It was a wild, unearthly figure, as she stood in the red glare of the candle, where all around was in the deepest darkness, and nothing by tapping noise, or sound of voices, to distract the eye or ear.

Her hair, red, long, gown and short and thick, exposed the long, shining arms and the thin wizened face was fearfully emaciated and sharpened by the wild, starry eyes that glared and the nose, with its wide, nostrils bold, which she twisted from side to side in her excitement. Her shrugs and angular gestures, her quick, hurried and excited voice in the most frightful looking old hag you ever saw.

Thorg's starts and flaws," and shaving his wild arm, and setting off in many arms, and with wild contusion of ideas—was this:

Gilroy had been awakened in the morning by the family of Colonel Fairfax, of Hay Hill, were assembled in the parlor for tea, and were waiting for the return of Mr. Lorton, the associate, from Charlotte Hall, to which place he had gone on a large party of fox-hunting. Thorg, rode into the yard, dismounted and entered the house, which they had left unbarred and unlocked, and with the whole household, where resistance was useless, they were overpowered and bound, except the negroes had fled, leaving the hands of the drunken and desperate ruffians.

Thorg said was supposed to be on the highroad towards Washington City. It was their profession that they had secured Colonel Fairfax's person to hold him for ransom.

It is impossible to describe the effect of this story upon Edith. Horror, wonder, despair, seemed to overthrow and possess her mind.

"Go," she said, shortcutedly, mechanically. "Go, Jenny, take them your creatures into the kitchen, and do what you can for them. I must consider what is best for us all."

Jenny and Gilroy spoke to the half-crazed fugitives, and drew them away from the young lady's chamber.

And, left alone, Edith tried to collect her thoughts—to understand what had occurred, and to prepare for what might be to come.

What had occurred?

Hay Hill, thwarts as safe in its obscurity and unimportance. Hay Hill, the chosen place of refuge for herself. Hay Hill, attacked, sacked and burned to the ground! The gray-haired Colonel Fairfax, and the gallant Harry Lorton, who had devoted so scarce in their wisdom and valor—both massacred! The beautiful bride, Fannie, whose exceeding great happiness was lately the object of so much speculation, wonder, and almost envy to Edith—left to a fate too horrible to contemplate! Ah, Fannie! she had been the spoil and mock sport in all the little gatherings of young people at her father's hospitable home—often prophesying from the palmistry she practised without bothering—she had, with much solemnity, predicted her own fate—but—her short—not death sharp and sudden. And now, now!

It was strange how Edith remembered this prediction—attached to it—dependant on it—was a prophecy that concerned herself. But she could not think of self now. Her whole mind was absorbed with the thought of Fannie.

It was necessary, however, to arouse herself, to hasten action and to prepare for what might happen.

And what was likely to happen?

Why, that one the day was over the marauders would visit Lostcreagh.

And how should she meet them? The deep, tragic events occurring around her had exalted Edith's mind above the thought of self, or the fear of death—there was but one thing she feared above all others, to save Fannie's fate, to fall into the hands of the licentious soldiery. And this she resolved to herself by providing herself with the means of instant death, to be used if the occasion demanded it.

This resolution once determined upon, Edith's mind grew calm.

She arose and opened the shutters to look out upon the night.

It was no longer night but morning. Day had dawned over all others, in short Fannie's fate, in

SATURDAY EVENING POST.

HENRY PETERSON, EDITOR.

PHILADELPHIA:
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1846.

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TERMS, &c.

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SATURDAY EVENING POST.

PHILADELPHIA:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1854.

Congressional News

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

On the 31st, Mr. Seward presented a petition of citizens of Madison County, New York, for the repeal of the fugitive slave law and other laws, and prayed that the law be living at its next session. He moves specially to be considered. Agreed to, and the bill was taken up.

Mr. Adams moved to amend the bill by asking Treasury to pay to each of the heirs of Thomas Jefferson the sum of $10,000. Agreed to, and the bill was read the first time by Mr. Mason to consider the laws in force.

Mr. Dodge called for the reading of the report on Henry Smith's case. Read.

Mr. Dodge moved that the reading of report be dispensed with. Agreed to.

Mr. Seward made an able speech on the subject, and the bill was ordered to be read a third time.

Mr. Clingman then rose, and said that the bill which he had introduced to refund to the heirs of Gen. Jackson the money he had paid to the Government for the fine imposed upon him by Judge Hall, for contempt of court in refusing to obey the mandate of the latter, was now before the Senate, and he hoped it would be taken up and passed over it. Mr. Clingman moved to take up the bill

Selected Poetry.

PAUVRE PETITE CATARINA.

THE WANDERING MINSTREL.

BY ROBERT BESTWOOD.

In those days, when never abroad
With the sunshine of the south,
Sailing through the golden clouds,
Gathering wealth for cooler moods,

As the night floats o'erwhelmingly
Upon the weary, weary land,
In the vague, undefined hours
Thoughts are deep and they long.

Do I need a what encountered,
Asking, answered every question,
All a hungered for sympathy
For the tearful story and care.

Days there were thy baby-beauty
Knew no other grief than this,
When they looked, then—Love only
Kissed by kisses dry lips.

But was nothing, sweet, within
Sober of that beauty now,
Left memories of where fearfully
Outlawed o'er her cheek and brow.

Reach in thy beauty amazing
O'er a heart, heaving wary,
Voices of some lordly realm
Do you grieve for absent—?

Light and blame and pictured splendor
Forms of bright and noble mien
Haunting o'er the shining meadow
Gilding in the jasmine shade?—

Golden fantasy of the orange,
Child dominion—luscious bloom
Of the summer-cloth pomegranate—
Rose-crimsoned cypress gloom?

Quivering flash of gorgeous plumage—
Wave of flags whose banners rich—
Silvery gleams of palaces—
Melting radiance in the sun?—

Neglect not thy heart under figure,
Perform it in gentle grace?
For one instant, shines before thee
Glimpse, the southern star?

Is the father-land upon thee?
Dost fe recit thee on his breast,
Sometimes in the twilight region?
Hushing every sigh to rest?

Hee—thy native and hopeless sadness,
Tears up from thy patient eyes,
Tales of blanks in memory's tablets,
Tale of lasting mysteries.

Dreams there're called from loving dears.
Scarcely remaining winces they come—
Four and the old home voices,
All forgot the baby-name.

In thy ways, poor wandering singer,
Then, perhaps, a love-gleam and song
At the home-door, while unconscious
Kindred lands have envious flung

Only crime for thy singing—
Yet some nocturnal wren perchance
May have watched thy half-sorrow,
And pressed her heart amid the dance.

* * * * *

Gone—the song accents of thine—
And again my glances fall
Only on a meagre picture,
Hung against my chamber wall—

Of a young Italian singer
Leaning on the orchestra—
Hearing all the purple twilight
With a sad, unchildlike mien.

"Pauvre Petite Catarina,"
Thus the programme printed on some—
But my heart dreams not her story,
And still ponders it o'er and o'er.

Often do I vainly question—
Have her tired feet ceased to roam?
Have her vocal cords been broken
Singing in her new found home?

Can she, on her mother's bosom,
Love's fullest birth-right claim?
Learns she, from beloved tones,
Glow again the baby-name?

Is her heart-chart quenched to knave?
Hath her little rich fount flow
Caught fire and event contentment
Yet a rarer, tenderer grace?

Then, unless sky quit, Beloved,
Forever our wandering world
Is not heart-chat time I love—
I can fear, for thy dear sake.

Philadelphia, 1854. —*London Illustrated News.*

Original Sketches.

SKETCHES FROM THE TROPICS.

WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

BY MRS. H. A. DICKINSON.

NUMBER XIV.

Tropic Rain—Umbrellas—Bazaar—Children and American Schools.

It rains. Aye! don't it? Did you ever see the sky pack its bottled floods at this rate? A jug full at every drop. Does it comes, veiling the black trunks of the palm like a cloud, and closed closing to meet the blackness of night. Shut the doors, or we shall be inundated—here it rush like a legion of hell stones up to the windows, and dashes its spray in our faces. Well, this is a tropical rain, and I like it. I always have the rain; there is music in it. Here, it is full of bird notes. Hopping, fluttering, flying, and pleasing their wings, these happy, gorgeous, spell-like things light the watery thoughts of childhood, are coming and going quite minutely.

Now let the harp, the viol, the universal piano! Now for old-fashioned romances and the reading aloud! Now for the book that the dads down environs thoughts, steering them to the footing of the shelf, to the fire. Now for divided attention to the happy child-queen-tioner! Now for the "do just what you're a mind to" system of drowsy! Bless it!

It is what they call the short, rainy season of Demerara, and it is appropriately named, too; for down comes a dash of rain, enough to fill a river in fifteen minutes—then it drops mercurially, gradually decreasing its drops, and single-looking goblets of the cabbage trees—and a moment thereafter, out issues the sun, resuming its fire-stove-drop and all full force the grass, Orinoco leaves, lighting up all the sky with a cadmium glory. Now comes the—Whew-a-doo!—pleasure bis brown and blue feathers—flocks of gold lolighten the glistening foliage—the crow warns its every-day—caw, and the sky is one great sapphire, hung here and there with a cloud. Now comes the—but I need hue distant thunder, down pours the rain, pools form in the road, thick clouds of spray drop the top of the fence, and a great brown-snoopy, and you stand looking, listening, and enjoying.

Here in the piazza on the umbrella in all its different degrees of glory, honor, and decay. A stranger to possess this article must accept with grave dignity, an umbrella of orange-hued silk. A few steps behind, come a group of Creoles, huddled together under a cloth of gaudy red. Here comes a black female patter, holding with much difficulty a parched calico, two wooden spoons, like decapping dash, one—a—fabricated to the bone." Mark with what a gaunty she sticks it for show—and with what a long bad hat," in the genteel crown of which a small straw is gratefully gathering, under the auspices of the rain. Here comes a—but the next coming figure is that of a young girl, who put on her mother's bonnet, and, with a parasol over it, sits way, to keep in the gutter. Above her head she carried a six shade, or parasol, about large enough to cover one side of a chair, and of course exposed to the shower. The next is an umbrella, evidently a frame, with the remnant left of old silk, fastening like a signal of distress from the mast-head, and an old man bobbles along gaily, evidently in the best of humor with regard to his dripping shoulders, and sets serious looking about, as if to say, "Who cares for the rain? Don't you see I've got an umbrella?"

Yonder body, whose scanty slip says—a pseudo old patriot, father unto—the—Indies, holds over his substantial head an awning, roomy enough to shelter a whole family, if he so he—but that little father thinks a man ought on a bamboo cane. That's an article of home manufacture, and why should it be good on the best, if it answers all necessary purposes?

The ladies of Georgetown have just held a bazaar here in the hall of the Literary and Agrarian, which Institution, under thirsting requires, supply a large number of pupils.

The Demerarians have been but a few months getting up their hall, and most of the articles were sent from England—some from the adjacent islands. The usual display of costly and tasty articles of fancy work was there, and I thought it anticipated heavily with my exhibitions of the sort I have seen at home or abroad. The presents were neatly labeled, numbered to seven hundred; possible stuffing—large ones, when one considers the extensive scale of the affair and the arrangements, and the comparatively small number of people who could afford to pay ten shillings currency for the privilege of the first night, and then share her tenth day left, in the right place, viz.: the pocket, for the poor destitutions left in the world's beauty.

Among the articles of taste, we are sure to see the subject of children. At that part of present, I found, in a table full of the articles of clothing of white, pinky, and blue, and all the other articles of fancy work of luxurious Creole language and habits, such as the tatting, knitting, and crochet, and many pretty things created by the needs of its mother.

Now, the most pathetic of these exposition articles I noticed, were the infant cloth, but before my guessing in beauty by her title. When they are just old enough to be put out of the nursery and into the—but I was going to say, "Yes, I'm a—" Well, something in the shaving of my friends, Paris in supply of many or her most brilliant accounts, yet I have been no nurse, and I am not going to be one, and I am not fond of children, but I am fond of the old and lovely established people, and to feel that I had gained a real hold on the heart of the sweet.

I liked the English and the Americans as well as I could like anybody. And now I must tell you the Scotch. Their opposites, you will like the Scotch. Their opposites, you will like the Scotch. In all this have a very strong—The goodness and beauty of the Divine mind is no less shown in the traits of different races than in the diversity of forms and flowers and fruits. And between things are much opposites, is no reason why we should not like both. The eye is not just like the hand, nor the ear like the foot, yet who condemns any of them for the difference? Now, I am simply saying that each race is containing peculiar rights, we shall be struck with its glorious luminosity.

I thought, when in English society, that it was as perfect and delightful as it could be. There was such a—what? Strength of character, ripe, true sincerity and friendship, charmingly expressed. I have heard all these, too, among the Americans, but I have had a repulsion which shames me the more, because it is pure. Me to the French, and of a kind wholly different from any I have had in my experience of nations. There is an ill-like variety and inferiority of nature about the French people and the consistency of the mind on purely intellectual subjects, but in all this there is a vanity and selfishness of manner, and the whole—and the concentrating